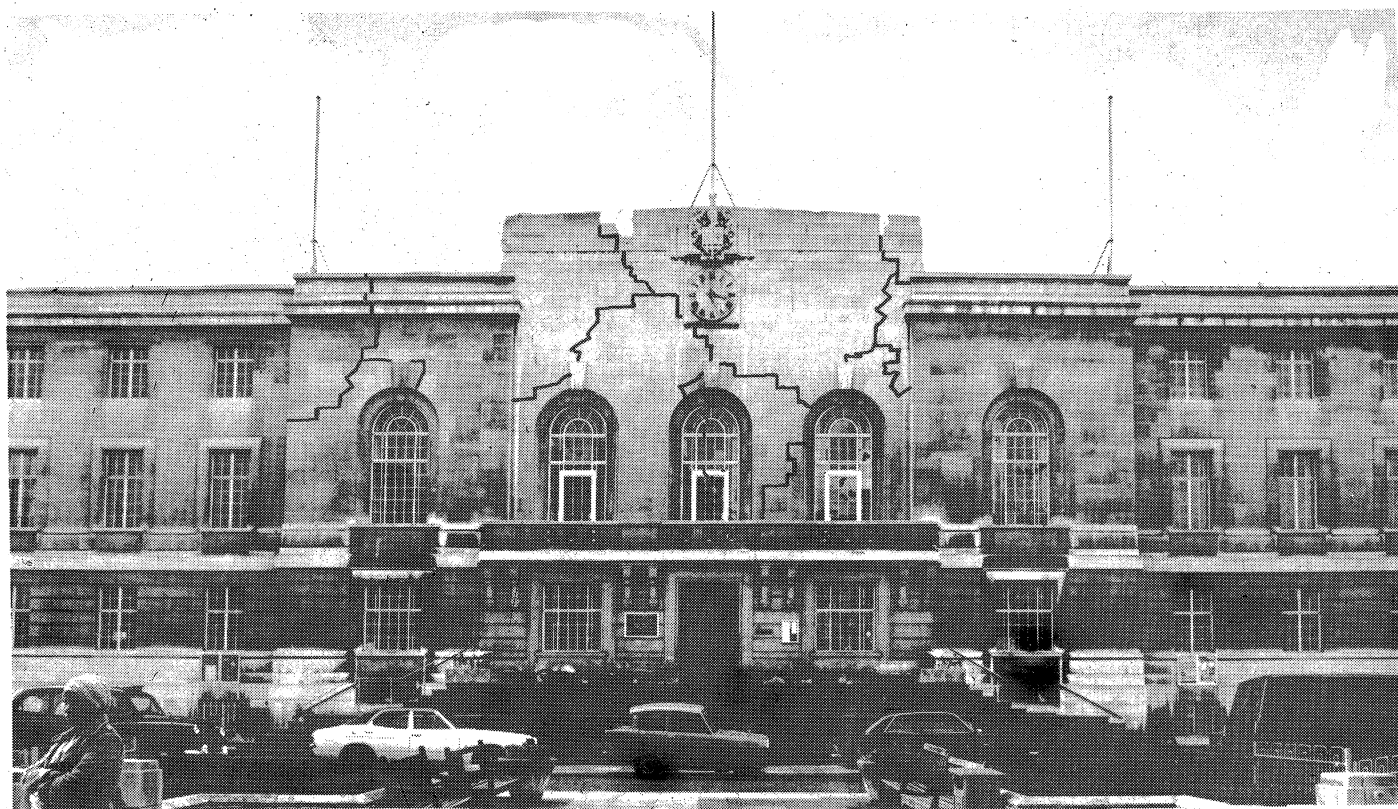


February/March 1977 no. 23

7p

We regret very much that we have had to raise the price of HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS to 7p from this issue. However the price has been 5p since the very first issue, in 1972, and we don't need to remind you of inflation since then! HPP is not published for profit, but neither can we afford to make a loss any longer. We hope that you will still find the paper worth buying - and reading. If you don't, then tell us - better still, come and help us ... see back page.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS



Town Hall unity cracks over Rent Rises

WITH MORE THAN 26,000 council homes, Hackney Council are landlords of a large proportion of the Borough's population. In the last four years (despite a years rent freeze) Hackney Council have voted directly to increase their rents by up to £2.30 a week. And that's before we start talking about rate increases, extra heating charges, increased stored and parking-site charges etc. etc. That little lot amounts to a fairly considerable swipe out of your electorate's living standards.

FOR THE FULL STORY SEE PAGES 6 and 7...

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RIGHT WING TAKEOVER OF LOCAL
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ODDS 'N' SODS pages 9-10

INFORMATION page 11

Fight under way to Save Our Hospitals...

Well done the Daily Mirror! At long last the national media have awoken to discover that the Health Service in Hackney is in a catastrophic state. Ace reporter John Pilger was sent down to Hackney to see the fungus on the walls and the lift that doesn't work and to sniff the unhygienic odour of the sluice room. He wrote:

"Hackney, where poverty these days is almost a presence in the streets, was at the bottom of the heap when the hospital was built last century and it is still there. It is an area of mostly the very poor, the very old and the very young; it has the highest national rate in almost every illness, from tuberculosis to venereal disease, and there are more accidents and more mental breakdowns. The people there have come to depend on their hospital as a "front line" against even greater hardship."

Words that ring very true! Now Pilger has been taken off writing hospital stories by his bosses on the Mirror.

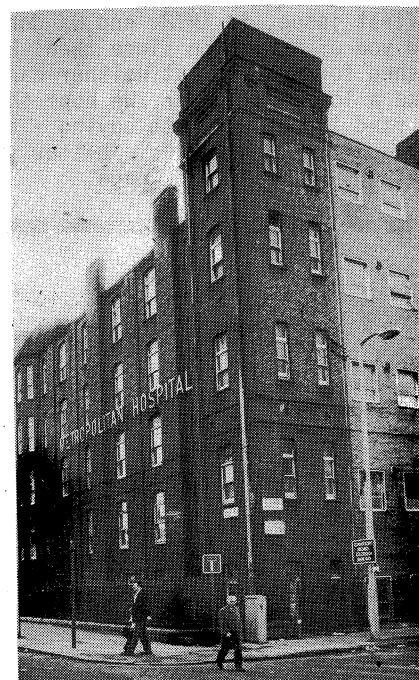
Pilger and the other Fleet Street journalists were in the convoy of dignitaries who accompanied Roland Moyle, the Minister of State for Health, on his tour of the "ratpit" hospitals. They were only going to be shown the specially

Kingsland Road has now been closed and patients moved. Arthur Bull, the hospital secretary, was full of praise for the workers there, who had been "incredibly loyal and steadfastly refused to strike." The result - they have lost their jobs! Realising that only action by workers can save the health service the Metropolitan porters have at last padlocked the gates so that equipment cannot be moved.

Catering workers at the Hackney Hospital and Barts have also been on strike against cuts in their work rotas which would have meant a drop of £5-£10 in their wage packets. The management have at last accepted that there will be no cuts there.

These developments, although minor, are signs that rank-and-file hospital workers are at last resisting the health cuts being forced on them by the Government.

The example of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson hospital occupation is inspiring moves towards direct action in other threatened hospitals all over the country. Hospital workers are now co-ordinating activities towards a "Save Our Hospitals" all-day



The Metropolitan Hospital - empty of patients but still full of equipment!

conference on Saturday 19 March, to be held in the Holborn Assembly Rooms.

Further details can be obtained from East London Health Worker, tel 981 4526.



The Daily Mirror wasn't quite right. It's HACKNEY that is dying. The Government's Cuts mean 1 in 5 hospital beds are being axed!

cleaned-up wards at the hospitals - a team of painters were hurriedly dispatched from the Eastern to paint F block at Hackney - but pressure from the junior doctors forced them to be shown all the horrors.

All the publicity has had a rejuvenating effect on the campaign to improve the hospital service in Hackney. The Metropolitan in

LIMEHOUSE LABOUR

The National Museum of Labour History is something different. It tells the social history of the workers since the industrial revolution and follows the history of the greatest social movement of the time, the labour movement.

It is a history of the mass of people, their struggles and sacrifices which have all too often been ignored or misrepresented. In the exhibition you will see the visual moments of famous events, for example the Peterloo Massacre, the Tolpuddle Martyrs, the Suffragettes and of the not so famous, the fight of the women of Ascot under Lyme, 1827, the work of H M Hyndman. There are the stories of well known people such as Tom Paine and William Morris and the not so well known, Tom Jones and Emma Patterson.

The collection was brought together by the Trade Union Labour

Cooperative Democratic History Society (TULC), a devoted group of labour movement people working from 1963, when a small exhibition in Redhill, Surrey, proved to be

DOCK, WHARF, RIVERSIDE AND GENERAL LABOURERS' UNION

President: TOM MANN Treasurer: P. H. CHAMBERLAIN, L.C.C. Gen. Sec: BEN TILLEY

Our Motto: **FOR THE PEOPLE AND BY THE PEOPLE**

VICTORIA & ALBERT DOCK DISTRICT.

A MASS MEETING

Sunday, July 5th, 1891,
MORLEY'S CORNER, BARKING ROAD,

When Address will be delivered by the following Friends of Labour, on the Benefits of Trade Unionism and Labour Representation:

PERFORMERS: M. J. BEN TILLEY, JOHN BURNS, TOM MANN, J. H. WILSON, KEIR HARDIE, MR. RATCLIFF, W. THORNE, DR. JOHN MOIR.

HANDSOME NEW SILE BANNER

OF THE VICTORY BANNER IN A BANNER WILL BE MARCHED BY JOHN BURNS AND KEIR HARDIE.

A Special Program will start from the District Office, 101, Victoria Road, Barking, at 1.30 p.m., and march through the principal streets to the meeting.

COME IN YOUR THOUSANDS AND SUPPORT TRADE UNIONISM. ALL SHOULD WEAR THE TRADE UNIONIST'S HAT. THE WATTS ROAD CHURCH. 101 VICTORIA ROAD BARKING. PATRICK'S District Office.

...and fight ahead to Save Our Services



After months of campaigning by dedicated groups such as Fare Fight ('Travel now, pay later') and Platform (the transport workers' paper) the 'big' transport union bosses have finally lumbered into action.

The 'Save Our Services' campaign is exclusively concerned with trying to get a bigger slice of the cake for public transport and seems little concerned with what is happening to our hospitals, schools and other public services, yet despite this considerable limitation the jokey leaflet issued by the unions makes some telling points about the plight



of our public transport system.

For example, after 2½ years of stable fares London Transport doubled fares between March and November 1975 because of cuts in Government support. London Transport say they are short of 2,500 bus crew and, presumably, cannot recruit for financial reasons. Lack of investment has left LT short of 600 busses needed to maintain normal rush-hour services.

The argument is often made that we don't need 'expensive' transport services, but as the SOS leaflet points out, other industrialised countries do not agree. In Tokyo a huge expansion of the underground system will be bigger than London's. Meanwhile, the Paris public transport system, previously as unreliable and unsupported as London's, has been expanded and its fares held stable. The result is a 25% increase in the use of Paris buses, and France has exported transport technology to seventeen countries. In Paris public transport is paid for mainly by the rates. Only 30% of the operating costs comes

from fares. Next year, if the Government has its way 80% of London's costs will be paid by you, the traveller!

So what action does the SOS campaign suggest? Well, it's the usual mixture of lobbying MPs, writing to newspapers etc. - useful perhaps as a means of getting the general public involved in transport issues, but unlikely to shake the industrial moguls and reactionary politicians who are putting the squeeze on all our services. This is hardly surprising given that the prominent leaders of the campaign are people like Jack 'Social Contract' Jones. What is needed is united direct action by public transport workers and passengers to fight for an end to transport cuts and to link up with the broader fight for better public services throughout Britain.

FREE TRANSPORT DAY!

Platform and Fare Fight are both calling for a Free Transport Day before the SOS Day for Transport in April. Details of this are being worked out at the moment. It is hoped that the transport services will run as usual - except no fares will be collected. If passengers and workers together can take such action then the GLC and the Government will be forced to drop these cuts. For an example of how such direct action can work we only have to look to Turin in Italy where the bus company was forced to drop a planned fare rise when the union printed tickets at the old fare and conductors issued them to the passengers who used them! One of the Italian organisers is going to come to England before LT's proposed summer fare rises to encourage such direct resistance. Fare Fight has stated that this rise will be uncollectable, and with six months to build an effective campaign there is no reason why this should not be so!

Contact: FARE FIGHT, 60a Turners Road, E.3, 790 9965.
PLATFORM, 175 South Park Drive, Ilford, Essex.

MUSEUM

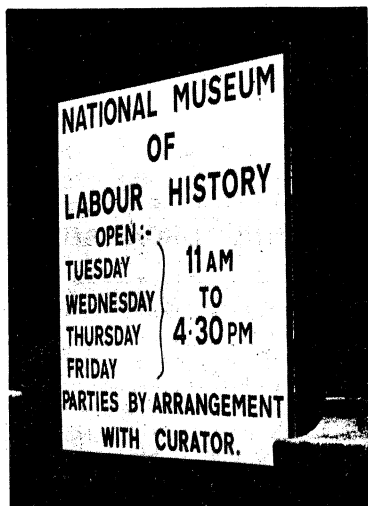
the beginning, until the opening of the museum in May 1975. The museum is administered by a Trust but TULC membership helps to run the museum and still works to seek out, preserve and present the visual history of the labour movement. Tower Hamlets council has supported our work by giving the museum rent free accommodation but we are badly in need of funds to run the museum and extend its work with schools, travelling exhibitions, display, research etc. To try and solve our financial problems we are launching an £100,00 Appeal Fund in 1977.

If you are interested in labour history and believe in the importance of preserving and displaying our heritage then please: try and visit the museum; join the TULC; ask your political and labour organisations to support our work financially; watch out that items

of visual history are not destroyed; offer your services to the museum.

Limehouse Town Hall, Commercial Road, London E14. Tel 515 3229.

Even people living as near as Hackney ask, 'Where is Limehouse?' yet both the 277 and 106 bus services run direct from the borough to Limehouse.



new refuge for battered women

Hackney Women's Aid opened a new refuge on 6 December 1976. Since we have been open again we have had over 40 telephone calls from women asking for help. Some few women can manage with the support they get from friends and relatives, but most badly need somewhere to stay and a lot of support from us in order to be able to free themselves from the batterings of violent men.

Unfortunately we can only take four families at any one time and each family only has one bedroom and has to share the kitchen, bathroom and living room.

All of us in the support group realise what a difficult time it is for the women; all having to live in the one house (at the moment there are thirteen children), having to come to terms with their experiences and work out their futures, and often living in fear that their husbands might find them and punish them even more severely.

In fact, realising that many women are knocked about by their husbands, if not badly beaten and seeing how submissive some become really makes us think seriously about the position of women in our society. When the women come into the refuge they start to talk a lot about their husbands and men generally. Nobody really comes up with any answers, but at least they are free to talk and think about their lives. For our part we believe that violence is socially created in an unequal and unjust society where the majority of people live unfulfilled lives. In practice this means that we trust in the women. We do not see them as in any way personally inadequate. All the women in the house are free to run it as they want to and to join with us in making decisions. The only rule we have is that nobody is refused admission if we have the space and nobody is turned away without being given the numbers of the other refuges. Other rules may be made jointly and altered when the need arises.

For example one woman thought it best to allow her husband to see the children in the refuge so that she did not provoke him to further violence by refusing him entry, but when he upset the whole house by trying to snatch the children and causing the helpers to physically prevent him, everybody decided it was better not to let him in again.

At the moment our refuge is one of the nicer ones because the council decorated the house for us and the women all work hard to keep it clean. They also put a lot of energy into helping one another and trying to overcome the problems of living communally. Also we have been lucky enough to get an Urban Aid grant to pay a full-time worker. Many of the other Women's Aid groups run refuges purely by the strength of a voluntary group. Nevertheless all the refuges, including our own, are run with very little financial support and rely heavily on donations and fund-raising activities.

All agencies which offer advice and support in the borough have our telephone number and refer people to us - Citizen's Advice Bureau, Town Hall, Housing Centre, Social Services, Centerprise, etc.

If anybody would like further information or would like to come and help us please contact Linda Edwards at 254 0882 (work) or 521 2547 (home).

Letter

Dere Sur,

I'm Sekretery of the NAZIONAL AFFRONT (to the intelligence) PARTY and I'm riting to you to tell you if yu dont publish this leter in youre magazine wele get yu.

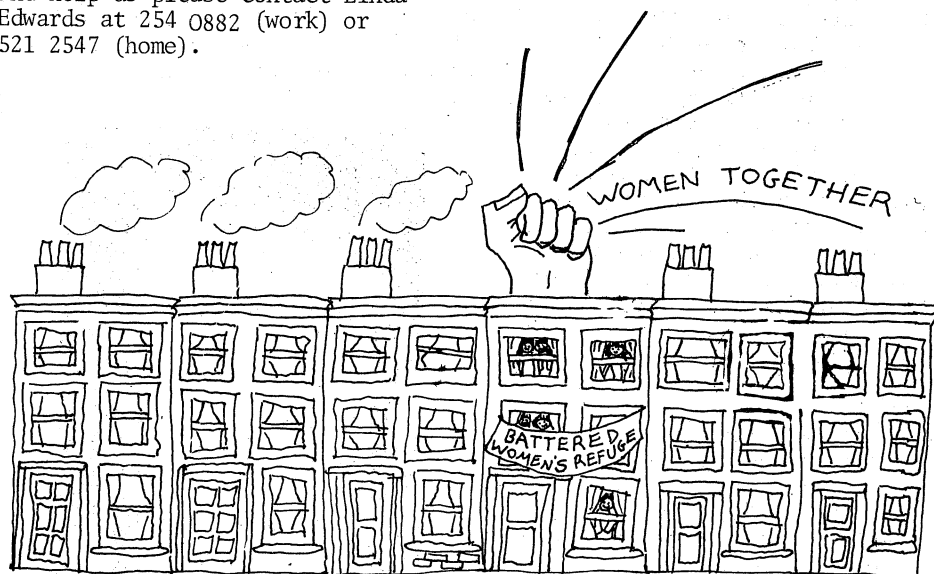
Were lokin for nue members to joine the NAZIONAL AFFRONT PARTY and suspect some of your readers will want to bekome AFFRONTs. Our intelligence standards and hie: members must have an eye queue of 134 (Ed note: this should read 13.4) and must answer difikult questions on the works of our foundre Adolf Hitler. For example, who invented Blacks? Anser - Hitler - because we nede somthing to hate and blame or we could not exist. HITLER off course killed the Jews, so we kill all the Blacks, then Jews, then Catholics, Dog Lovers and aneone else we can blame for the prickarous state of the Cuntrie.

As a mater of innterest our leadres book MINE KAMF is too bee translatted into Swawhealey and eni Swawhealey reader can buy it - but must pay for it in a foreign currenecy which is eezier transferred to our bunk akkout in Switzerland.

Finaly in the wurd of our grate brittish foundres HITLER GOBBLES and NIETZCHE: 'ROBBERY IS CAPITALISM BY OTHER MEANS' so send us doughnations or wele come round and steel youre muney.

Youres fatefully
FOLDA LITHER

Thanks to PLATFORM for forwarding these words of wisdom!



LIBERAL FRONT?

While the national press is pre-occupied with supposed left-wing take-overs of the Labour Party, HPP has been investigating a right-wing take-over of a local Liberal Party.....

The Annual General Meeting of Hackney South and Shoreditch Liberal Association took place on December 8th. At the same meeting Jeff Roberts was adopted as prospective G.L.C. candidate amid scenes of uproar and mass resignations. The chairman, treasurer and agent/organiser of the Association resigned over statements about race relations made before and during the meeting by Mr. Roberts. His views appeared to be that immigration from the Commonwealth should be severely restricted from now on as Britain could not cope with the strains of unrestricted or slightly restricted immigration imposed. He claimed that the inner urban areas where the black people settled were subject to almost insurmountable difficulties both socially and civically and until a solution could be found there should be no further settlement.

The problems of the meeting were twofold. The first was that Mr. Roberts was well-known for his association with the National Front in Hoxton, the second that,

in the fortnight before the meeting he had been recruiting heavily and people attended the meeting whom none of the committee members had seen before. Many of these people seemed to have views nearer the N.F. than the Liberal Party. Mr. Roberts said that he would not be bound by the Chairman's ruling that he should speak for the ten minutes given to the other contestant for G.L.C. candidature. He said he would speak for fifteen minutes, and spoke for twenty. He proved to be in favour of the sale of council flats and houses: unfortunately he gave the impression that he was in favour of manipulating the housing list so that black people found themselves at the back. Questions were asked by those who tried to put the record straight, such as "Why do you want us to be second class citizens?" and "Why should black people be allowed to do you or me down?" Mr. Roberts was asked whether he would accept policy decisions taken by the Association, he said he would *if they coincided with his views*. He would not be loyal or bound by Association or Liberal Party policy in which he had no belief. The immigration policy was wrong. If his views resulted in N.F. supporters voting Liberal it was better than no-one doing so. With much acclaim he was elected by an overwhelming majority and will face a rebel Liberal in the G.L.C. election.

HPP COMMENT

Immigrants do not cause the problems of inner cities. The poor housing and general decay of the central areas are due to neglect by governments and councils and the high rents on business premises which force out sources of employment for residents. The result is that the poorer people in these areas are trapped, they can't afford to live in the middle-class suburbs and there are few jobs near by - a vicious circle. Because of discrimination over jobs and houses more immigrants suffer from this trap than British people, but the problems will never be solved by racialism the only answer is a change in the economic and political life of our society.

Once again Hackney is witnessing the attempted rise of racials and other bigots of the right, this time apparently in the guise of Liberalism. Jeff Roberts has not been active in the Liberal Party before and the nature of his last minute support at the candidates adoption meeting is highly suspicious. Voters in Hackney South and Shoreditch who might be tempted to vote Liberal should think carefully about the views which Roberts and his supporters are voicing especially as an independent Liberal candidate will stand in the G.L.C. elections.



under 5s progress

Hackney Under Fives has been awarded a grant under the Government Job Creation Programme to set up a Toy Workshop at Bethnal Green ABE, where woodwork and metalwork instructor Roy Fell will be training young unemployed people to make and repair toys for playgroups, toy libraries and nurseries for about half the commercial price.

They are also encouraging groups to apply for money from the Jubilee Appeal, which is administered by the Borough Secretary. Three groups so far have applied for grants for minibuses.

Apart from the provision of information to groups that would not otherwise hear it, Hackney

Under Fives also acts as a pressure group, ensuring that the Council and other bodies are kept well informed about the necessity for child day-care centres - in a borough where there are still only places for 2½ per cent of children, and, which cannot be too much of a coincidence, 48% of children going into care are under five.

A new edition of the Guide to Services and Facilities for Under Fives in Hackney is almost ready, and can be ordered from the Under Fives Office in Centerprise. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month.

Further information from Hackney Under Fives: 254 9145.

Rents: SAGA OF A

In December last year Councillors Gerry Ross and Sam Springer (both of Rectory Ward) were expelled from Hackney Council's Labour Group for voting against the October '76 rent increases. Within days four other councillors resigned in protest over the strait-jacket discipline imposed by the group and to support the stand of the two councillors on this issue of principle.

THE LABOUR GROUP

The idea of a Group is that all the Labour councillors and aldermen should have a platform to thrash out their differences in private and then present a united front to the opposition in open Council. It is in the

Group's meetings that the real debates are held and vital decisions taken. Thus, it might be argued that for a councillor to be expelled is for him to be rendered politically impotent.

The October increase was the second rent rise that Hackney's council tenants had faced in the space of just ten months.

To appreciate why the Council had approved this and to understand the background to the expulsions and resignations we must trace the history of Government rent policy back to the 1972 Act.

AUGUST 1973

After a much chronicled battle over whether to defy or implement the Fair Rents Act Hackney Council voted by a margin of just four to implement. This meant that from October rents would rise by £1.

FEBRUARY 1974

Heath held a snap election and a Labour Government was returned.

One of the first actions of the minority Government was to freeze all public and private rents for the year April 1st 1974 to March 31st 1975.

APRIL 1975

The Secretary of State announced that he expected Local Authorities to increase their rents when the freeze is lifted.

NOVEMBER 1975

Hackney Council decided to increase their rents from the first week in January 1976. The freeze had held rents down during a period of high inflation.

Many Councils increased their rents in the first few months of the new financial year.

So why did Hackney wait until January of the following year? One councillor suggested that the reason was probably a political expedient. The extra revenue was badly needed, but the battle over the Tories Finance Act was too fresh in councillor's minds.

The abstentions were regarded as breaking group discipline and the offending councillors had to promise obedience to the Whip in future.

Councillor Eileen Cox did not make this undertaking and her letter was interpreted by the Whip as one of offering her resignation. Infact there seems to be considerable doubt among some other councillors whether it was intended as such.

The first rent increase took effect from the beginning of January 1976. This increase was 60p a week with a lesser increase for tenants paying a higher rent under the ex-Tory Council's two-tier rents system.

HOUSING RENTS AND SUBSIDIES ACT 1975

This was the Act that scrapped the iniquitous Housing Finance Act which snatched rent-fixing



CHATS PALACE



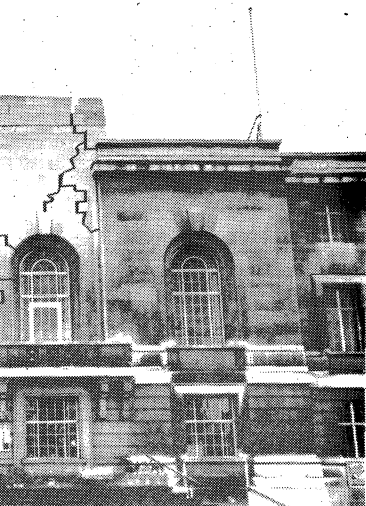
"Chats Palace" is the name we have given to the new community centre in Brooksby's Walk, just by the Chatsworth Road Market in Homerton. Pop in there on Tuesday nights and you will find a busy scene of three or four dozen kids trying out drama improvisations, making costumes and masks. They are preparing their own show for performance in April, encouraged by "Free Form", the local community arts group. On Thursday evening you will find groups of children working in the photographic dark-room and the silk-screen workshop. Earlier on in the afternoon there is a thriving over-sixties club and in the morning a group of local child-minders are following a special television course organised by Hackney Social Services.

These are just some of the activities already underway in the Centre which a year ago was just a vague idea.

When we wrote about the project in Hackney People's Press last year we were still at the planning stage. Since then Hackney Council have supported the project by granting a three-year lease on the building at a peppercorn rent and making a grant towards rates, heating and lighting costs. Eighteen local voluntary groups have affiliated and have representatives on the Management Committee. Most of these have organised events or regular activities within the Centre and have helped in the decorating and building work undertaken so far.

One of the most successful events has been 'A Hackney'd Show'

OLITICAL FOOTBALL



powers from elected councillors and placed tenants at the mercy of the Rent Scrutiny Board.

22nd DECEMBER 1975

Using powers given to him under Rents and Subsidies Act the Secretary of State sent a letter to all Local Authorities stating that to be entitled to the High Costs subsidy (worth £700,000 for housing in Hackney) they would have to raise their rents by an average of 60p a week in the 1976/7 financial year.

The rebel councillors believe that council leaders knew that this letter was coming at a time when it would have been possible to postpone the January increase.

Other councillors argue that even if the group had been aware of this, the choice would have just been between two "small" increases a few months apart and one very large rise in April.

JUNE 1976: Labour Group meeting

The second rent rise was approved at this meeting.

About 15 councillors voted against this increase. Councillor John Sweeney believes that by increasing rents the council was toeing the Government line on cuts in public spending. It was up to councillors to make a stand against this misguided policy.

This decision meant that from October council rents would be raised by 70p a week with a lesser increase for pre-War flats.

The group turned down a request that a free vote should be allowed on the issue in open chamber. Councillor Gerry Ross said he would register his protest by speaking against the increases and leaving the chamber before the vote was held. He says that no one had objected to this at the time.

JULY 1976 - FULL COUNCIL MEETING

At the July Council Meeting Councillor Sam Springer led the opposition against the increase. He said he couldn't vote for increases when the ward he represents contains two of the most disadvantaged estates in Hackney.

Despite his previous intention Gerry Ross was provoked into voting against by a speech from Councillor John Kotz who challenged him to stand by his principles in the chamber.

About a third of the councillors were unable to attend the July meeting including Councillors Sweeney, Weir and David and Lois Pollock.

JULY to DECEMBER 1976: THE EXPULSIONS.

Within days of the July meeting Councillor Fred Weedon (the Chief Whip) sent letters to the two rebels informing them that they were expelled from the group. When they queried the validity of a decision that appeared to have been taken by Fred Weedon alone, they were informed that they could attend the next Group Meeting in September when a resolution proposing their expulsion would be put.

Because of confusion over the correct procedure for approving the expulsions the motion wasn't voted on until the December Group meeting.

By 24 votes to 20 it was agreed that the two councillors should be expelled. Following quickly on the heels of these resignations Fred Weedon received the resignations of Councillors Sweeney, Weir and the Pollocks.

by Free Form, billed as a musical magical mystery tour down Hackney's Memory Lane. It has played to something approaching a thousand people at eight shows in Chats Palace, including a special performance for pensioners from local old folks' homes. We hope that this will be the forerunner of a regular programme of live drama, music hall and cabaret from professional fringe theatre companies and amateur groups.

At the moment we are applying for an Urban Aid grant to provide new toilet and kitchen facilities and comfortable furniture, all of which are essential, particularly for the over-sixties and under-fives activities. Also we hope the grant will cover the salary of a full-time administrator whose tasks will include co-ordinating the work of the various voluntary groups associated with the project, ensuring fair allocation of space, time and resources, relating the future development of the project

to local community needs and ensuring adequate funding of the project.

The response we have received up till now from local people has been very encouraging. Many offers of help in decorating and building work have been coming in and considerable interest has been expressed in the activities and events planned, so we feel that our aim of providing a focal point for community life in Homerton and Lower Clapton is starting to be realised.

However, money as always is the problem. Public expenditure cut-backs are bound to affect the support we can expect from the local authorities. Even if the Urban Aid application is approved, which from recent experience is not at all certain, more cash will be needed if the project is to realize its full potential. For example, money is needed to provide theatre lighting, to lay out the garden for play activities and to buy equipment for the photographic and silk-screen workshops. Readers of

Hackney People's Press may wish to help in this respect. We are launching an appeal to local industry, business and individuals for financial support. Donations of over £5 will be acknowledged in the form of a plaque in the foyer of Chats Palace. We have a large wall we hope to cover! Gifts should be addressed to the Treasurer, David Benn at Chats Palace, 42 Brooksby's Walk E.9.

Although no further affiliations can be considered until April any local voluntary organisations are invited to apply to use the facilities at Chats Palace for events or meetings when there is space available. The address of the Bookings Secretary is: Margaret Rust, 145 Roding Road, E.5. 986 3394.

We look forward to a busy and exciting year - keep an eye out for events advertised in the local and national press. You'll always be welcome!

HACKNEY LAW CENTRE

Hit or Miss?

Hackney has now had an operational Law Centre in the Citizen's Advice Bureau offices in Mare Street for the best part of a year. Is it here to stay and is it a success?

The constitution under which it functions makes it clear that local solicitors should be offered work more appropriately done by them; this in practice covers all work except emergency jobs and tribunal preparation and appearances. However the Law Centre has covered much wider ground, and given help to council tenants unhappy with their property or at risk of being evicted.

What else is needed? Many people who have not wanted to go to a solicitor in the private sector have gone to the Law Centre and have been surprised when they were told they would have to go elsewhere. It is not just those who feel they cannot afford it who decide not to see a solicitor: people are very conscious of class gaps and communication barriers, and the Law Centre attempts to overcome the one and break through the other. The main drawback is that one Law Centre cannot serve the needs of our enormous population. It is far away from Hoxton, Stamford Hill, Stoke Newington and Victoria Park. Although clients have come from a wide area, everyone knows that many of Hackney's most pressing legal/social problems are never taken there. Where they are often taken is to local community advice centres such as SNAGS?, the legal action group centre in Stoke Newington and Centerprise.

Centerprise is very busy on Thursday nights, the legal advice night, and during the rest of the week a lawyer can be contacted by phone. No-one doubts the need for Centerprise and similar places to have a full-time solicitor independently funded. However, this is difficult because of Law Society rules. A possible solution is for a solicitor to

be based there who is a Law Centre employee, but the Law Centre is functioning as a legal agency, farming out very many clients to other local solicitors.

Solicitors are not allowed to advertise, so a local Law Centre cannot get off the ground unless the management committee obtain permission to advertise from the Law Society. Also a Law Centre must be independent of any local group and if it is simply an extension of the Council it will not get permission to operate. The director of a Law Centre must have been in practice as a solicitor for at least three years.

The Hackney Law Centre was meant to have opened eighteen months before it did. Rumour has it that permission was denied it by the Law Society, because of doubts about the director suggested by the Council. Eventually the Committee with Alderman Ottolangui as chairman, appointed William Ackroyd director and obtained one year's temporary permission. Ruth Holt was appointed deputy director, but she has now left to work in the North. Another candidate, active in local politics and with the

Hackney Citizens' Rights Group, was told as he arrived for interview "You're from Centerprise, aren't you. You're wasting your time." He was, and Ruth Holt's job is still vacant.

Application was recently made to have the Law Society's permission made permanent. This was rejected. The original committee has only met to discuss a replacement for Ruth Holt, but that meeting ended when two crucial participants walked out. The reason why the Law Society refused further permission to operate has not been made public.

Is the Law Centre a success? The director is excellent; a mark of his success has been that the Council has complained formally to him that he seems to regard it as his prime function to act against them. The problem is staff. Since there is no deputy director, the Centre grant will not stretch to this. The solicitors who advise at Centerprise would like to take cases, but this is forbidden. It would be helpful if the legal aid scheme would be extended to cover informal registered advice centres. Informal advice centres are much more welcoming than the formal atmosphere of the CAB/Law Centre. The lawyers are upstairs and a bureaucratic obstacle course has to be undertaken before reaching them. However the Law Centre is infinitely more accessible to people than a private solicitor, and it has made people more aware of their rights and less scared to ask for advice. Unfortunately, it is just not adequate to deal with the problems of the whole of Hackney. If all it has done is convince people that the Council has no right to leave them in lousy housing, that eviction notices can be fought, that life can be made bearable even in Hackney if powers face up to their legal duties, then it has not been an unsuccessful year, but then neither has it fulfilled all that it was set up to do.



WHOSE JUBILEE?

People's Jubilee at the Palace

The Communist Party is organising a People's Jubilee at the Alexandra Palace on Sunday June 19. Unlike the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations this will be an event in which people can really participate.

odds

The 130-foot long Great Hall is being designed as a festive village, with streets winding in and out of the stalls and exhibitions, with sidewalk cafes, fun fair side-shows and stages for theatre groups and musicians. In the afternoon there will be a political rally with speakers from Britain and other countries which will be held in the huge Central arena. A wide programme of events for children is being planned including films, sports, puppet shows and painting. A continuous Folk Festival will run throughout the day, and in the evening rock and jazz bands will be playing.

Don't forget Sunday June 19. Come and enjoy yourself at YOUR Jubilee.

Hackney Jubilee

A considerable effort is being made this year to involve Hackney, and East London as a whole, in the celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee. The Hackney Show has been moved forward to the second week in June to coincide with the national festivities, and the queen-at considerable expense to the Borough is to make a special visit to Hackney early in July.

So over the next few months we're going to be told an awful lot about the last twenty-five years from the point of view of the Royal family. But what about our last twenty-five years?

Centerprise will be taking part in the Hackney Show, and we are hoping to put on some sort of alternative jubilee, we want to say that there are other ways of looking at the last twenty-five years. We would like - through exhibitions and events - to portray some aspects of what it has been like to live work and bring up a family in Hackney since the early 50's.



The official jubilee will be celebrating things far removed from our own world, and yet directly touching it. We will be told about royal visits to the Commonwealth; but what about people from the Commonwealth who were encouraged in the early 50's to come and work in Hackney: what has been their experience of the last twenty five years? We will be told a lot about the Queens's family: but what has it been liketo bring up children in Hackney during these years?

These are the sort of issues we want to raise. We ourselves will be doing some work on the local newspapers, and trying to get the facts and figures about such things as housing, education, industrial change.

But we want other people to be involved in this as soon as possible. If anyone has some ideas about this alternative jubilee, or if you think your own experience of the last twenty-five years will tell people more than the Queen's please get in touch with either Sue Shrapnel or Mark Whitaker at Centerprise.

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Just fancy that!

**Bold bid by
GLC to
rejuvenate
Stamford Hill**

COUNTY HALL has declared Stamford Hill to be a housing action area. It means that for the next five years the run-down East Bank area will get special help from the GLC. Many of the homes are rented and in multi-occupation.

HACKNEY GAZETTE

25 January 1977 - page 3

**Manpower problems
put the skids under
Stamford Hill
scheme**

AN ambitious bid by County Hall to resurrect a dying part of Stamford Hill may have trouble getting off the ground because of chronic staff shortages.

By NIGEL ADLAM

HACKNEY GAZETTE

25 January 1977 - back page

Excuse for Harrassment

Release, the drug help organisation based in Notting Hill, has been asked by the Home Office to give evidence about the current use of police stop and search powers, particularly in relation to drugs.

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on...



They would like to collect evidence about police harassment both for drug offences and for unspecified reasons. The police do not always tell the person being searched if he or she is being frisked under the Misuse of Drugs Act (which authorises personal searches without the necessity of a formal arrest) or under some other pretext.

Release does not have much time left to prepare its report, so it would like evidence sent to it as soon as possible. The last time the Home Office investigated the use of drugs was seven years ago, so it is quite obvious that another opportunity will not come up for some time.

Release is also calling for complete legalisation of cannabis following the very confusing Appeal Court ruling that possession of grass which does not contain fruiting or flowering tops is not an offence.

Contact: RELEASE, 1 Elgin Avenue, W9. Tel 289 1123 (24-hour emergency 603 8654) or send details to Hackney People's Press and we will forward them.

Twenty five Hackney estates have Tenants Associations which are affiliated to the ALHE and these TA's have been invited to send information on play facilities for children in their own areas, for example, access to open space for play, adventure playgrounds and sites for games like five aside football. This will all be used in a research project aimed at helping to shape an effective play policy for Hackney.

The ALHE can only find out what is needed if you, the Hackney residents tell them. Send your views to:

Penny Hammond, ALHE,
17 Victoria Park Square, E2.
Tel: 981 1221

Homeworkers Organise

Homeworkers are the exploited labour you don't hear about. Non-unionised, often immigrants speaking little English or women tied at home by small children, they are scandalously used by business, both big and small, and paid mere pittance - sometimes as low as just 10p per hour - for piecework done at home.

The London Homeworking Campaign is combatting these conditions, and is setting up a Hackney Group. At a meeting sponsored by them, the Hackney Trades Council and the Hackney Community Relations Council on 1 March are going to consider ways to organise homeworkers and end their exploitation.

The meeting will be held in the Family Centre, on the corner of Evering Road and Rectory Road, N16, on Tuesday 1 March, at 7.45 pm. Anyone who works from home is particularly asked to attend.



Play Facilities - A Survey

The Association of London Housing Estates is a charity organisation acting as a co-ordinator and pressure group on behalf of council estate Tenants Associations in Greater London.

EVENTS and MEETINGS

Tues 8 - Sat 19 Feb: Centerprise. Drawings and sketches by Lee Best.

Fri 18 Feb: Centerprise. 7.30pm. Film: "The Night Cleaners." & discussion with one of the film's makers.

Fri 25 Feb: Centerprise. 7.30pm. Soweto Students. Talk by Ms Dlamini of South African students protest movement.

Sat 26 Feb: Chats Palace. 8pm. Anglo-Cypriot Event. Food, drink, raffles. Tickets £1 from A. Michaelides, 37 Dunsmure Road, N.16.

Tues 1 March: Family Centre, corner Rectory Road & Evering Road, N.16. 7.45pm. Homeworkers campaign meeting.

Fri 11 March: Centerprise. 7.30pm. RAPP. Black theatre/poetry/drama group

Sat 12 March: Princess May School, Stoke Newington Road, N.16. Day conference on local Government finance. CASH/WEA.

Mon 21 Feb: Centerprise. 7.30pm. Co-op meeting. Come and express your views on how Centerprise is run.

Tues 22 Feb: Rayleigh Memorial Hall, Albion Road, N.16. 8pm. Tenants meeting for all tenants living in the Shakespeare Walk Housing Action Area.

Tues 22 Feb: Princess May School, Stoke Newington Road, N.16. 7.45pm. Paul Foot: Building the Socialist Workers Party.

Tues 22 Feb - Sat 12 March. Centerprise. Welfare Rights Exhibition. Find out what are YOUR rights.

Wed 23 Feb: 37 Dunsmure Road, N.16. 8pm. British Road to Socialism. CP open meeting with George Matthews.

Thurs 24 Feb: 37 Dunsmure Road, N.16. 8pm. Sexism in the Communist Party. Open meeting with Bea Campbell & Dan Muir.

CHILDREN

HACKNEY UNDER FIVES

c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8. 254 9145.

Information and support for parents with children below school age. Contact Madge Harte or Gillian Wilding.

Stores are available every Saturday from 10am-12.30pm. Open monthly meetings first Tuesday of every month at 8pm in Centerprise.

HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION

c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8. 254 9145.

Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Cheryl Broadway or Mo Ross.

subscribe

to Hackney People's Press and make sure of your copies regularly. Only £1.35 for ten issues. Please make cheque out to Hackney People's Press and send it to Hackney People's Press, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

INFORMATION

USE THIS SPACE FREE! Send details of events or regular meetings to HPP c/o Centerprise.

THE WORKSHOP

THE WORKSHOP

81 Lenthall Road, E.8
254 9632 before 6pm on Tuesday to Friday only.
Learn to print posters, T shirts at non-commercial rates. Cost of materials only. Open Tuesdays-Sundays 1pm-8pm.

COMMUNITY, TENANTS and PENSIONERS GROUPS

HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

34 Dalston Lane, E.8
Advice service on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

TASK FORCE

34 Dalston Lane, E.8. Tel: 254 1620
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N.16 and N.4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N.5.

HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT

Upper Clapton Congregational Hall, E.5.
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.
Tuesday 10am - 10pm
Thursday 10am - 4.30pm
Friday 10am - 10pm

OFF CENTRE

25 Hackney Grove, E.8 Tel: 985 8566
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Tuesdays.)

FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE

Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E.8
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.
986 2233 (24 hours)
985 0973 (office hours)
986 9146

SOUTH STOKE NEWINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

54 Harcombe Road, N.16.

EAST STOKE NEWINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Contact: Barbara Harris, 124a Stoke Newington High Street, N.16.

HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION

c/o 35 Finmere House, Woodberry Down, N.4.

MENTAL PATIENTS UNION

Meet at 177 Glenarm Road, E.5.

HACKNEY GINGERBREAD

Group for one parent families. Meet every other Monday at 34 Dalston Lane, E.8, at 7.30. Contact Brenda Royal 986 9776 for details.

WOMEN

HACKNEY WOMENS AID

Shelter for battered women and children now operating. Contact:
Linda 254 0882 (days)
521 2547 (eves)
John 985 4901
Catriona 985 3059 (eves)

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN

Meetings fortnightly at 13 Sandringham Road, E.8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

WOMENS CENTRE

now open at 1 Cazenove Road, N.16.

FOOD

DOWN TO EARTH

Durham Row, Stepney Green, E.1.
Wholefood shop selling grains, flour, beans, honey, herbs etc.
790 3512. Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm.

POLITICAL GROUPS

HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS

Hackney South and Central
Meet every Wednesday at 8pm at 34 Dalston Lane, E.8.
Hackney North
Meet every other Monday at 8pm at 5 Stamford Hill, N.16. Contact Mark Douglas, 103 Osbaldestone Road, N.16 for details. All welcome.

HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY

10 branches hold meetings regularly in the borough. Contact Monty Goldman 12 Leaside Road, E.5. 806 1367.

HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

Contact E. Ross 986 5767 for details.

HACKNEY SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Meet regularly in Centerprise.
Contact Liz 739 9772 for details.

ANARCHIST WORKERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8. Contact Dave Coull 226 0817 for details. Open discussion meeting every third Tuesday evening.

HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Hackney Community Relations Council, Mare Street, E.8.

CENTERPRISE

CENTERPRISE

136 Kingsland High Street, E.8.
254 9632.

Bookshop and office hours:
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6.30pm.

Coffeebar and meeting room hours:
Tuesday-Friday 10am-10pm
Saturday 10am-6.30pm.

Facilities:

Coffeebar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters can be used free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in General Office.

Advice Centre:

Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays, 6.30-7.30pm. Contact Jon Webber or ring 254 9634.

Reading Centre:

For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Shrapnel or ring 254 9635.

Publishing Project:

Publishing books by people who live in Hackney. Contact Ken Worpole or ring 254 9634.

Youth Project:

Table tennis, music, writing, discussion groups etc. Tuesday to Friday afternoons, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Contact Oliver Flavin.

GAYS

EAST LONDON FAGGOTS

Collective of gay socialists living and working in East London.
Contact 19 Redmans Road, E.1. 790 2454.

NORTH LONDON GAY CENTRE

17 Perth Road, N.4.

HEALTH

CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E.2. 739 6308. Monday-Friday 10am-5pm. Takes up your criticisms of local health services.

ADVICE

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

CENTERPRISE

136 Kingsland High Street, E.8.
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

SNAGS?

Manor Road Church (corner of Manor Road and Lordship Road) N.16.
MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

HOXTON HALL

128a Hoxton Street, N.1.
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

KINGSMEAD

Wally Foster Centre, Homerton Road, E.9.
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.

ALLEN ROAD

12 Allen Road, N.16.
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

HACKNEY COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

245 Mare Street, E.8.
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE

236-8 Mare Street, E.8. 986 8446.
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30pm on Thursdays.)
Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE

5 Stamford Hill, N.16.
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems.
FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

for HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT and OFF CENTRE see Community Groups section on this page.

MEDITATION

ANANDA MARGA

For spiritual progress and social change. Introduction to meditation classes every Wednesday 7.30pm at 1 Cazenove Road, N.16. Everyone welcome!

ECOLOGY

WASTE PAPER

Take old newspaper, magazines and cardboard, to RICB, Drysdale Street, N.1 (just off Hoxton Street) and get given free Green Shield Stamps! 2 stamps per pound of paper.
Monday-Friday 7am-4pm. Saturday 9.30-12.30pm. All the paper YOU take in goes to help blind children to see.

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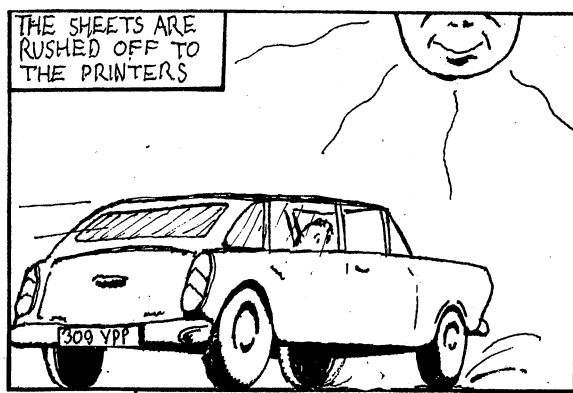
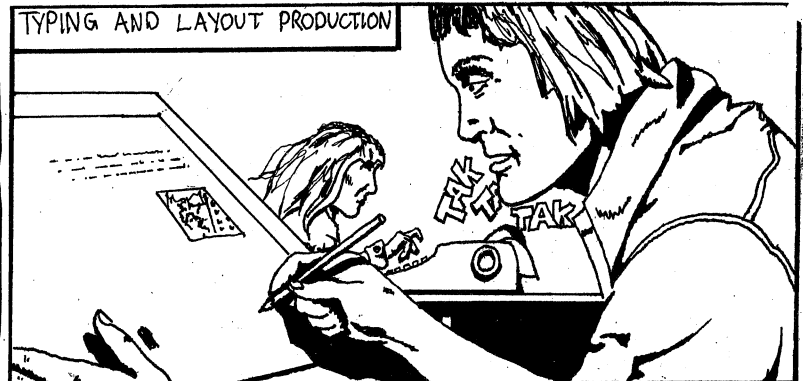


HOW YOU CAN HELP HPP

AND HOW HPP CAN HELP YOU!!



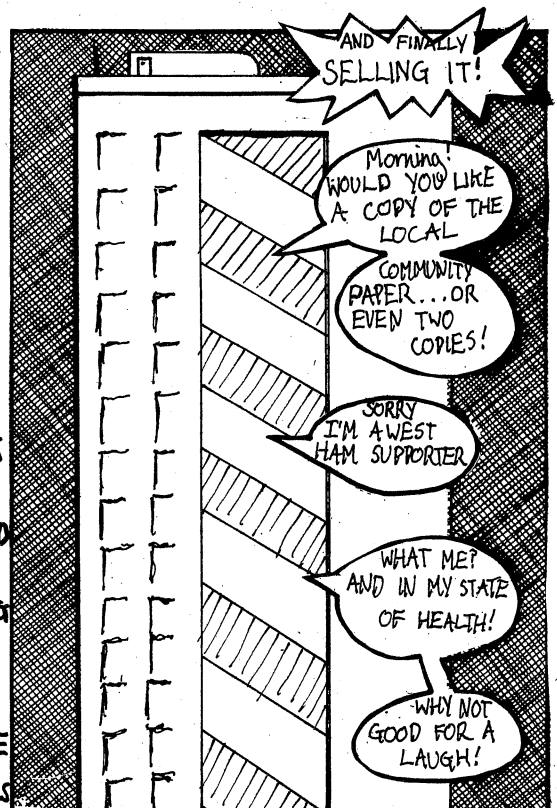
All over London things are going on that more people should know about. Many good activities, and many bad ones....



Feedback is what we need!



Tell us what you think of the paper. BETTER STILL, COME AND HELP US.... WE ALWAYS NEED YOUR HELP-WRITING, PRODUCING AND SELLING! NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON THURSDAY 3RD MARCH AT 8 P.M. IN CENTERPRISE OR RING 249-0311 FOR DETAILS



23rd February 1977



DROP THE CHARGES!

You have probably read in the papers or heard on the news about the three men arrested last weekend under the Official Secrets Act.

One of these men, Crispin Aubrey, was for many years heavily involved in writing and producing HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS, and the fact that we are still publishing after more than four years is in no small way due to his efforts. Now, in the course of his day-to-day work, reporting for Time Out, he has been charged with "receiving classified information" under a section of the discredited Official Secrets Act which Merlyn Rees and the Government are pledged to repeal.

What is more disturbing is that the arrests were made as a result of information that could only have been received by use of an illegal method of surveillance, such as telephone tapping or the opening of mail.

The security services in this country, Special Branch and MI5, frequently operate in this way -- totally illegally-- and are accountable to no-one, preferring to hide their activities behind suspicious

cloaks of "national security".

The Committee for the defence of the two American writers, Philip Agee and Mark Hosenball, who have been threatened with deportation for writing about the CIA's "dirty tricks" has been harrassed continually by the security services since its inception. The arrests of Crispin Aubrey, John Berry and Duncan Campbell, all supporters of the Agee-Hosenball Committee, is the most serious example yet of this harrassment.

The security services are using the outmoded Official Secrets Act once again to suppress the freedom of the press and free speech in this country. We, the public, have the Right to know the kind of information that Aubrey, Berry and Campbell have been trying to publish. A committee has been set up for their defence and is organising (jointly with the Agee-Hosenball Committee) a public meeting on Monday 28 February at 7.30pm in the Conway Hall, Holborn. There will also be a protest demonstration on Saturday 5 March, which leaves Charing Cross Embankment at 1pm, and goes to the headquarters of MI6 at Lambeth North.

MEETING Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1
Monday 28 February at 7.30pm.

MARCH Assemble Charing Cross Embankment
Saturday 5 March at 1pm.

NO DEPORTATIONS!

DROP THE CHARGES!

REPEAL THE ACT!